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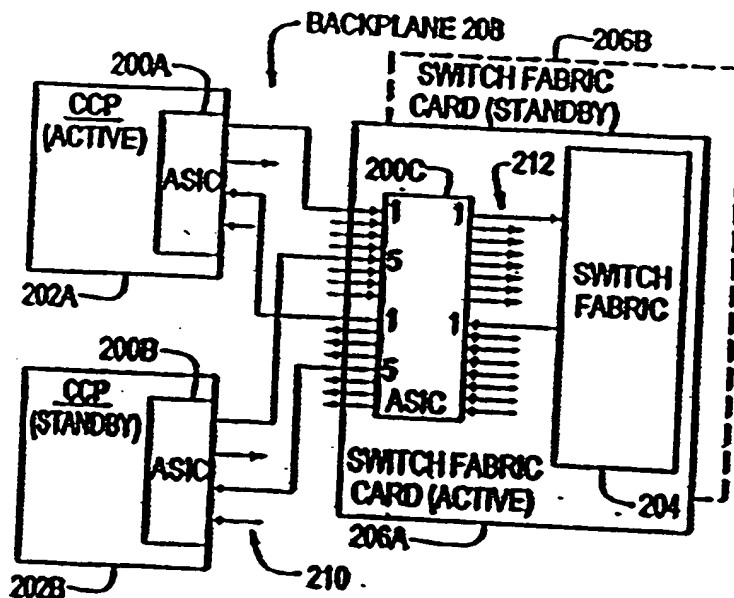
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Title: CELL COMBINATION TO UTILIZE AVAILABLE SWITCH BANDWIDTH

Abstract

An apparatus and method for combining the combination of multistreams of data cells into a single stream. By enabling plural ports of an intermediate device access a single parallel output of the device, plural network switch elements share a single output through a switch fabric. For example, the method and apparatus interleaving the relatively low bandwidth cell outputs of two ATM switch central control processors (202A, 202B) onto a single output (212) routed through an intermediate switch fabric (204). Cells from these processors are received from intermediate devices, then routed to plural serial output ports. The output of cells provided to the plural output ports prevents exceeding the shared bandwidth.



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